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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-21

AUGUST 10, 1944

## GOOD GENERAL CROP PICTURE

Corn crop, from August 1 indications, forecast 2,929 million bushels, which would be about 147 million or 5 percent below the large crop of last year. Crop somewhat backward and handicapped by dry weather through portion of central States but may make fairly large total crop if frost holds off.

Indicated production of all wheat 1,132 million bushels, largest crop ever grown in this country. Winter wheat placed at 786 million bushels, second largest crop of record and nearly 50 percent above last year. Yield per acre, 18.8 bushels, has been exceeded slightly only twice. Spring wheat 346 million bushels, compared with 307 million last year and 189 million average.

Oats now estimated 1,188 million bushels, about 4 percent more than in 1943 and 16 percent above average.

Barley indicated 294 million bushels, about 9 percent below last year's crop.

Rice 69 million bushels or about 2 percent less than last year. Chief decline shown in Texas, due to water shortage.

A tobacco crop of 1,616 million pounds, all types combined, indicated by August 1 condition. This is about 15 percent above last year's crop. The 1933-42 average production was 1,389 million pounds. Flue-cured crop now expected to be around 984 million pounds. Dark-fired forecast 54.6 million pounds (smallest crop of record). Dark air-cured 32 million pounds. Burley crop forecast at 402 million pounds, compared with 390 million last year. Maryland indicated 28 million pounds, compared with 70.6 million last year. Cigar tobacco crop indicated 115 million pounds, compared with 109 million last year.

White potato crop now estimated at 385 million bushels, compared with 465 million last year and 10-year average (1933-42) of 363 million bushels. Indicated yield per acre 127.9 bushels, compared with 139.9 last year and 120.1 average.

Sweet potatoes for entire country 65.2 million bushels, compared with 72.5 last year.

Hay crop now expected around 97 million tons. This would be 2 million below last year. Although the crop is expected to be the third largest in 17 years, it is not large in relation to the number of animals to be fed. Yield is below last year, especially in very dry area

from Southern New England southwest to Texas. In parts of this area hay supply is very short.

## MORE FRUIT THIS YEAR

Commercial apple crop indicated by August 1 condition 126 million bushels, which is 41 percent larger than the very short crop (89 million bushels) last year and about 3 percent more than the 1934-42 average. The crop this year shows substantial increase in States of Washington, New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Michigan crop slightly less.

Peach crop likewise much larger (69 percent larger) than last year; now estimated at 71.3 million bushels. Such a crop would be 24 percent above the 10-year average.

Crop of pears now indicated 28.4 million bushels, 16 percent above last year but 1 percent below average.

Grape crop 2.7 million tons, compared with about 3 million last year and 10-year average of about 2.4 million tons.

All varieties of cherries in the 12 commercial States indicated crop of 205,030 tons, 76 percent more than 1943 crop of 116,510 tons and 32 percent above 10-year average.

Total United States orange production from bloom of 1943 estimated at 102 million boxes, compared with 85 million boxes produced from bloom of 1942. California Valencias, which are now the only oranges left for harvest, placed at 30.4 million boxes, which compares with 30 million boxes in previous year. Total grapefruit crop 55.5 million boxes, compared with 50.5 million previous year.

California lemons for 1943-44 placed at 11.7 million boxes, compared with 14.9 million previous year.

## GOOD TRUCK CROPS

Total production of commercial truck crops this year expected to be about 2 percent more than last year and 15 percent above 10-year average, on basis of August 1 reports.

Summer crop of lima beans indicated 603,000 bushels, slightly below last year and 14 percent below average. Summer crop of beets expected to be 864,000 bushels, 4 percent below last year. Early summer cabbage crop 90,200 tons, 4 percent above last year; late summer cabbage, 129,600 tons slightly above last year. Early fall domestic type cabbage 335,000 tons, 39 percent above 1943.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JUNE 15 1944	JULY 15 1944	JULY 15 1944
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.43	1.39	1.50
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.15	1.17	1.09
Oats, bu. . . . . dol.	.788	.764	.678
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	20.16	20.32	21.08
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.25	1.38	1.23
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.60	12.70	12.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.00	11.70	9.21
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.20	13.00	11.50
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.20	12.70	10.00
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.2	50.2	<sup>1</sup> 41.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	3.11	3.15	<sup>1</sup> 2.53
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.8	24.2	19.4
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	28.1	31.2	<sup>1</sup> 33.7

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



August 1 cotton crop forecast 11,022,000 bales. Such a crop would be 405,000 bales less than in 1943 and 1,433,000 bales less than 10-year average (1933-42). Cotton acreage for harvest this year is computed at 20,081,000 acres, smallest acreage harvested since 1895 and approximately 7 percent below last year. Indicated yield, however, is high, 263.5 pounds of lint per acre, 10 pounds above last year's yield and 37 pounds above average.

#### RECORD MEAT PRODUCTION LIKELY THIS YEAR

Total meat output this year may reach 25 billion pounds, dressed meat, an all-time record. Meat production in 1943 totaled 24.2 billion pounds. More beef and veal this year than last; but although hog slaughter may run 5 million head over last year, the amount of pork may be slightly smaller because of lighter weights. Lamb and mutton total may be around 10 percent smaller than last year.

Hog slaughter in 1944 expected to reach about 100 million head (slaughter last year was 95 million head). Slaughter has been heavy so far but during last quarter of year will fall below 1943 because of the 24 percent reduction in spring pig crop this year.

Cattle and calf slaughter for 1944 expected to total around 32 million head. This would exceed last year by 4 million head.

This year's lamb crop estimated at 29.6 million head, about 5½ percent smaller than last year's crop and about 3 percent below 10-year average (1933-42).

#### HEAVY MILK PRODUCTION BUT FEWER HEIFER CALVES

Milk production during July estimated at 11.6 billion pounds or about 1 percent less than in July last year. Decline from peak June production was 7 percent, about average, but slightly greater than last year. Number of milk cows on farm continue on upgrade, June reports indicating an increase during past year of about 2 percent. Production per cow below last year, however, probably because smaller proportion of cows were actually being milked. Milk flow appears to have held up well in the face of dry pastures in eastern and central dairy areas.

Number of heifer calves being saved for milk cows is declining. June reports recorded smallest number of heifer calves saved per hundred milk cows since 1934. Figures suggest possibility of 10 percent reduction in heifer calves by end of year.

Egg production in July 4,631 million eggs, a record output for the month—two percent above July last year and 40 percent above 10-year average. Total egg production first seven months of this year 40¼ billion eggs, 6 percent above like period last year and 49 percent above average. Number of laying hens on farms during July 336 million, an increase of 1 percent over last year and 32 percent above average. Culling of flocks was heavy in June (43 percent heavier than in June last year); but with increased egg prices during July culling was reduced to 12 percent under July last year. 296 million pullets, which will be added to farm flocks this fall, are 15 percent less than year ago although still 17 percent above 5-year average.

With record stocks of eggs in cold storage (equivalent to 20.8 million cases on July 1), civilian supplies of eggs last half of year likely will be about the same as a year ago.

#### FARM MORTGAGE DEBT SMALLER

Total farm mortgage debt outstanding January 1, 1944 estimated at \$5,634,772,000. This was a reduction of \$952 million from the total outstanding 4 years earlier. About \$850 million of this reduction occurred in 1942 and 1943. In other words, farmers have been using the increased incomes of war years to pay their debts.

The mortgage situation differs from that during the first World War. During the 4 years ended January 1, 1918, the mortgage debt increased almost 39 percent, from \$4,707 million to \$6,537 million. By contrast, in the 4 years ended January 1, 1944 the farm mortgage debt was reduced 14.4 percent from \$6,586 million to \$5,635 million.

#### FARM INCOME

Total receipts from farm products sold during June \$1,559 million, including \$54 million Government payments. Like figure in June 1943 was \$1,408 million which included \$24 million Government payments.

The January-July total receipts this year, \$9,178 million, compared with \$8,186 million in the corresponding period last year. These figures included \$507 million of Government payments this year and \$283 million Government payments last year.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142- Branch 4407.

#### CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JULY 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	192
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	170
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	113
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	175
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	328
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	247
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JULY-AVERAGE	JULY 1944
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.3	10.9
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.3	23.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.14	1.28
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	14.7	13.6
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - JUNE 1943	JAN. - JUNE 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	73.35	73.3
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	38	40
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	2,693	3,182
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	399	408
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . . .	5,740	7,631
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	9,034	11,534

<sup>1</sup>June figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure.

<sup>3</sup>January-July.